



El Cajon Gateway



**CITY NEWS
& GUIDE TO
RECREATION**
FALL '21

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City of El Cajon (619) 441-1776

El Cajon City Hall
200 Civic Center Way
El Cajon, CA 92020
www.elcajon.gov

City Council (619) 441-1788

Mayor Bill Wells
Deputy Mayor Gary Kendrick
Councilmember Steve Goble
Councilmember Michelle Metschel
Councilmember Phil Ortiz

City Departments

City Attorney	(619) 441-1798
City Clerk	(619) 441-1763
City Manager	(619) 441-1716
Community Development	(619) 441-1741
Finance	(619) 441-1668
Fire Administration	(619) 441-1601
Human Resources	(619) 441-1736
Information Technology	(619) 441-1535
Police Administration	(619) 579-3311
Public Works	(619) 441-1653
Public Works Operations	(619) 441-1658
Recreation	(619) 441-1754

Emergency 9-1-1

Call 9-1-1 when there is a medical emergency, fire, crime in progress, or a life-threatening situation.

Non-Emergency

Police (619) 579-3311
Fire (619) 441-1600

About the Cover:

Development and Infrastructure keep the City moving forward.

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Daylight Saving Time Ends

On November 7th it is time to roll your clocks back an hour as we welcome the fall season. Take a moment to also change the batteries in your smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors!



Message from the City Manager, Graham Mitchell

Hello residents, business owners, and visitors of El Cajon! My name is Graham Mitchell and I have had the privilege of serving as your city manager for the past three years.

I am extraordinarily impressed in the way our community is thriving; the City weathered the COVID-19 pandemic with tenacity. Residents, the business sector, community leaders, and City staff pulled together and persevered through an undeniably difficult year. Coming together in difficult times is the mark of a successful community. This past year, the way in which we combined our efforts exemplifies a great community.

This Gateway issue provides pages and pages of information that we hope you find useful and informative. I would like to point out three articles that I hope you review. First, earlier this year, the City Council established goals for the upcoming year. This goal-setting process, defined by community input, launches an aggressive vision for our City. The article about the outcome of this process is found on page 4.

Second, on page 6, the Gateway includes an article about the recently adopted Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Annual Budget, which provides a spending plan for the year ahead. This article provides a basic understanding of how the City operates financially. I hope to include more information about the budget, the budget process, and the City's stewardship over its resources in future issues of the Gateway.

Finally, page 11 contains an article on the East County Advanced Water Purification Program, a partnership between the City, the County of San Diego, Padre Dam Municipal Water District, and Helix Water District. By 2025, this program will produce up to 30 percent of East County's drinking water using innovative water recycling technology.

I hope that this issue of the Gateway is helpful to you as a member of this community. If there are areas in which you feel the City can improve, let me know. Please contact me at (619) 441-1718 or gmitchell@elcajon.gov.

City's Redistricting Process



In 2016, through the passage of Measure S, the City transitioned from an at-large election process to a voting-by-district process. This transition means that the City must redistrict every ten years following the US Census. Redistricting is the process of adjusting City Council voting district boundaries to ensure that each district has roughly the same number of voting-aged residents. In alignment with State and

Federal voting laws, the City scheduled four Redistricting Hearings to gather community input during this process.

At the first hearing, held on July 14 at the Hillside Recreation Center, participants provided feedback about communities of interest—neighborhoods with common interests other than race or political preference. The City will host the next hearing on September 8 and introduce an online mapping tool that will allow residents to draw and submit their own maps. During the final two hearings, the City Council will consider and ultimately select its next voting district map.

The next three hearings will be:

- Wednesday, September 8, at 6:30 p.m. at the Renette Recreation Center
- Thursday, November 4, at 7:00 p.m. at the Kennedy Recreation Center
- Saturday, January 22, 2022, at 10:30 a.m. at the El Cajon Valley High School

To find out more about the redistricting process or to get involved, visit the City's website at www.elcajon.gov/redistricting or email redistricting@elcajon.gov.

Human Resources Applicant Tips

- Position** Read the job description, if you need additional information contact Human Resources.
- Application** Answer every question in detail— you are your own biggest job advocate.
- Preparation** Familiarize yourself with the City of El Cajon & community it serves.
- Interview** Arrive early, come prepared to answer and ask questions, show the panel who you are.

elcajon.gov/jobs
hr@elcajon.gov

4 COUNCIL PRIORITIES, GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

City Priorities, Goals, and Objectives

There is an adage that says, “don’t try to do everything—you’ll end up accomplishing nothing.” This is an important mantra for any city to consider. The reality is that there are infinite needs in a community, but there are limited resources to meet those needs. Given this reality, the El Cajon City Council engaged in a process earlier this year of prioritizing the City’s primary needs and then established sixteen goals to address those priorities.

These priorities and goals:

- o Establish a vision for the City,
- o Provide a clear and transparent message to the community of how limited resources will be allocated, and
- o Allow the City to be proactive rather than reactive.

The priorities and goals were established by the City Council after conducting a series of workshops and meetings that gathered input from residents. The City then developed an implementation plan to guide it over the next year. This article provides a summary of the priorities (listed alphabetically) and corresponding goals for the upcoming year.

Communication/Civic Engagement

Recently, the City has stepped up its communication game. For example, in 2019, the City posted 850 messages on its social media accounts, which increased dramatically in 2020 with the City posting 1,570 times—an 84 percent increase! Two additional goals were formulated that will help the City better communicate and further enable residents to become more involved:

- o Refine the City’s Communication, Outreach, and Engagement Plan by talking to community members about what information they want and how they want to receive it.
- o Leverage technology and social media to promote the City, its events, and the community by relying on experiential marketing.

If you are interested in hearing from the City, follow us on social media or sign up for e-notifications at www.elcajon.gov/Enotifications.

Economic Development

As was highlighted in the last issue of the Gateway, economic development is the lifeblood for any city. El Cajon has had significant success in this area over the past five years, but many opportunities remain un-tapped. The following two economic development goals help strengthen the City’s fiscal position, enabling it to provide more services to its residents:

- o Develop a comprehensive Economic Development Strategic Plan to address opportunities, marketing, incentives, and priorities.
- o Analyze and change zoning policies that inhibit development.

Enhance Image of City by Focusing on Entryways

The City Council recognizes the City’s potential and thus, established goals to help others see that potential as well. Enhancing the appearance of the City, with a focus on its entryways, is one way to do this. Two specific goals address this priority:

- o Implement a landscape/beautification plan focused on the City’s main entryways.
- o Attract businesses at key entry locations.



Homelessness

In addition to the many programs the City has launched with the aim of housing those experiencing homelessness, the following additional three goals were established:

- o Increase enforcement on drug dealers supplying to vulnerable homeless populations.
- o Coordinate homeless services and housing with other cities in the East County region so that all jurisdictions in the region share the responsibility of providing housing and services to individuals experiencing homelessness.
- o Continue to address and clean up homeless encampments and debris and include power washing as part of the cleaning process.

Public Safety

Providing a safe community should be the top priority of every city. In fact, El Cajon allocates a greater percentage of its General Fund budget toward law enforcement than any other city in San Diego County—demonstrating the City’s commitment to this important aspect of its mission. In 2021, the City aims to augment its current efforts with the following goals:

- o Implement technologies that could assist in the response and services provided by the City’s Fire and Police Departments.
- o Evaluate public safety staffing and equipment needs for the City as it grows.
- o Launch a human trafficking/safety education campaign.

Miscellaneous Goals

There are always community needs that do not always fit neatly into a category—those needs fall within the miscellaneous category of goals, and include:

- o Consider an Election Integrity Ordinance.
- o Explore a process in which businesses can operate under modified zoning rules and explore policy opportunities to permanently relax regulations post-COVID-19.
- o Explore modified sign regulations regarding flashing and/or lighted signs and window.
- o Continue to be an industry leader by promoting wellness of City staff.

City staff will keep the community informed on progress in meeting these priorities and goals throughout the year. This comprehensive plan is found at www.elcajon.gov/CouncilPriorities.



Business Grants Help Small Businesses



The COVID-19 pandemic has adversely affected businesses everywhere and many are struggling to get back on their feet. In an effort to help business owners recover from the hardships of the past year, the City has initiated its second Small Business Grant program, made possible by American Rescue Plan Act funding from the federal government. The El Cajon City Council allocated \$5 million to support local small businesses, where business owners are eligible for up to \$15,000 to either hire new employees, invest in their business, or both.

One business owner who has taken advantage of this unique opportunity is Margaret Helt, the owner of The Grinder sandwich shop at N. 2nd & Greenfield, "I would like to thank the City of El Cajon for the Business Grant. My deli case was on its last leg and needed to be replaced. This grant enabled me to purchase a new deli case. I'm so thankful for the attention our City has paid to the businesses in an attempt to help us through this difficult time.

What an amazing blessing the City of El Cajon provided." Helt also hired two new employees as part of her business grant. If you own a small business in the City, visit www.cityofelcajon.us/BusinessGrant for details. Apply today!

New Townhomes Coming to Transit District



Rendering of site looking north along El Cajon Boulevard

In July, the El Cajon City Council approved a 116-unit residential development along El Cajon Boulevard at South Johnson Avenue. The project includes 15 townhome buildings, each containing between 6 and 11 units. Each townhome will feature three bedrooms, three bathrooms, and a two-car garage. The development will include new street trees along El Cajon Boulevard and Johnson Avenue and on-site amenities, including a swimming pool, a fruit orchard, and a greenspace. The development will also employ green building practices to minimize energy and water usage. The housing community will be constructed beside two capital improvement projects which are in their final planning stages in the City: a roundabout at Johnson and El Cajon Boulevard as well as street improvements along West Main Street.

This project has the potential to be a catalyst for the City as it is located within the Transit District Specific Plan area, where planned land uses and mobility improvements are designed to increase housing opportunities and spur revitalization of the area. To learn more, visit www.elcajon.gov/Development.

Have You Downloaded the El Cajon App?

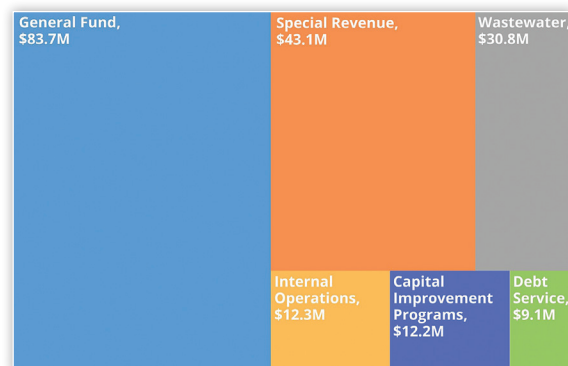




2021-2022 ANNUAL BUDGET IN REVIEW

On June 22, 2021, the City Council adopted the annual budget. The \$191.3 million budget establishes a spending plan that meets community needs by funding City priorities and goals. The City is pleased that the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 (FY21-22) budget is balanced, demonstrating the City's commitment to being good stewards of taxpayer dollars.

The City's accounting system is organized by different funds (see graphic to the right). These funds account for the financial transactions related to the purpose for which the fund was created. This ensures that monies collected for specific purposes are not spent on different needs (e.g. sewer revenue not used for park clean up). The City relies on all of its funds to meet community needs. The General Fund serves as the City primary fund.



FY21-22 Budget Funds

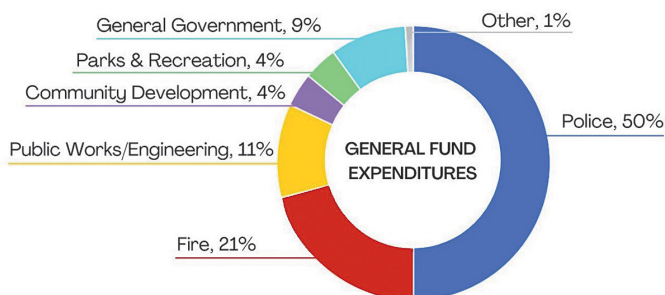
The General Fund – Revenues

The General Fund has a diverse portfolio of income streams. A variety of taxes make up 79% of the General Fund, followed by Franchise Fees (8%), Charges for Service (3%), and miscellaneous revenue (10%). In FY21-22, the City Council allocated \$83.6 million in General Fund revenues, which are detailed below.



The General Fund – Expenditures

The chart below reflects expenditures from the General Fund. If you would like to review the FY21-22 Budget document in its entirety, visit www.elcajon.gov/FY22Budget.



The City has many Capital Improvement Projects planned in FY21-22. The City plans to spend about \$14 million on roads and other transportation related projects, over \$5 million on a solar energy project, and \$3.1 million on its park system.

Major General Fund Revenue Sources

Sales Tax	The City receives 1% of all retail sales, with another 6.75% going to the State of California and other entities. Sales from automobiles, general consumer goods, and building & construction generate most of the City's sales tax revenue.
Property Tax	The City receives about 11.5% of the property tax paid by property owners. The balance of property taxes paid goes to school districts, the State, and other agencies.
Prop J	In 2008, the voters of El Cajon passed Measure J, which created a special sales tax to fund basic City operations. This special tax will generate \$10.9 million in FY21-22. This vital revenue source funds the equivalent of the Parks & Rec Department, park maintenance, Police traffic division, and the Community Development Department combined. This special tax is due to expire in March 31, 2029.
Transient Occupancy Tax	Referred to as TOT or hotel tax, this revenue is paid by visitors that stay at El Cajon motels and hotels.
Franchise Fees	Utility companies and other entities that utilize City streets and sidewalks to operate pay these fees.
Licenses & Permits	This revenue category reflects regulatory permits and licenses issued by the City such as building permits and the tobacco license.
Charges for Services	The City offers many services to its residents and visitors (e.g. recreation classes, facility rentals, review building plans, and passport processing). This revenue category captures those charges for the services provided.

Ending Housing Discrimination

The City of El Cajon strives to end housing discrimination in the rental, sales, lending, and insurance markets, in compliance with the Fair Housing Act. To assist in this effort, the City contracts with CSA San Diego County to provide El Cajon residents with a wide range of fair housing and tenant/landlord services. For over forty years, CSA has been providing services which include: investigating and monitoring of discrimination complaints, mediation of tenant/landlord disputes, maintaining of a free listing of accessible housing, providing community education and awareness seminars on tenant/landlord and fair housing rights and responsibilities, and providing homebuyer education counseling services, among others.

If you need fair housing assistance or more information, please visit www.c4sa.org.



Bill Beck Park Playground Resurfacing

The Bill Beck Park Playground is being upgraded with new rubber surfacing, made from with 100% recycled materials. The improvement makes the park a safer place for children and is easier to maintain. The wood mulch that previously covered the ground required frequent maintenance as heavy rain storms regularly washed away the mulch, requiring constant replacement. The park project includes removing the wood fiber, leveling the ground beneath the removed mulch, and installing of the new rubber surfacing. Construction is scheduled to be completed by late September. Learn more about Bill Beck Park at www.elcajon.gov/BillBeck.

Helping First Time Homebuyers

Have you always dreamed of owning your own home? The City of El Cajon may be able to make this dream a reality. The City administers a First Time Homebuyer Program that provides loans for qualified low-income households for down-payment assistance. This may enable you to purchase a new or existing home within the City limits. Loans of up to \$50,000 for a condominium or up to \$100,000 for a single-family home may be available!

City housing programs have income and qualification restrictions that may not be the same for all programs. Funding is limited and loan terms are subject to change without notice. For more information or to learn about program qualifications visit www.elcajon.gov/homebuyers-assistance and download the American Dream Program flier, or call 619-441-1710.



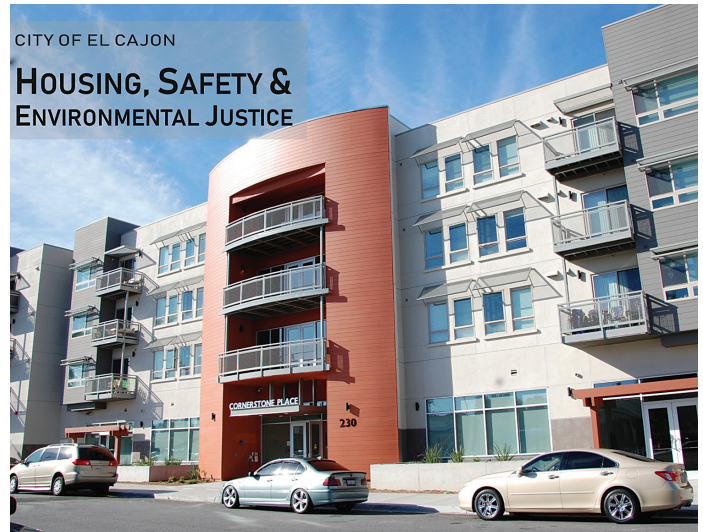
City Updates General Plan

State law requires cities to create and adopt a General Plan, which is a land-use and planning document that serves as a blueprint for future development in a city.

Over the past two years, City staff has been working on updates to the General Plan's Housing and Safety Elements, as well as drafting a new Environmental Justice Element. The updates incorporate feedback gathered through extensive community outreach and findings from in-depth research and analysis of development trends. The three elements were presented and approved by the City Council this past July.

State law requires the City to update its Housing Element every eight years and demonstrate sufficient zone capacity for housing to accommodate the number of units identified in the Regional Housing Needs Assessment. The Housing Element identifies El Cajon's housing needs and opportunities, while establishing clear goals and objectives to inform future housing decisions.

The Safety and new Environmental Justice Elements aim to reduce risks from natural disasters such as wildfires or earthquakes, and to ensure that El Cajon communities have access to healthy food, clean air, and safe housing. To learn more about the about the City's General Plan, visit www.elcajon.gov/plan.



El Cajon Responds to Homelessness Through Partnerships

Did you know that East County has the 2nd highest homeless population in the County? Are you concerned about the effects of homelessness on our community? So are we! That's what led to the formation of the East County Homeless Task Force.

The East County Homeless Task Force (ECHTF) is a community-based volunteer program of the San Diego East County Chamber Foundation that promotes collaboration between public, private, and non-profit sectors to discover and enact solutions for homelessness in East County. The task force engages and educates our communities about housing and services for preventing and ending homelessness. We advocate for policies that result in housing and service options appropriate to East County's range of housing needs.

If you are seeking resources for yourself or someone else, please visit our resources website at www.ECAssist.org. If you want to be a part of the solution, please join us by contacting the ECHTF at theechtf@gmail.com.

ECPD Direct Notifications

Law enforcement's relationship with the community begins with its customers—that is why customer service is a top priority for the El Cajon Police Department. With new technology by Spidr Tech, the Department is now able to send text messages, emails, and mobile-friendly surveys automatically to crime victims, reporting parties, and other members of the community.

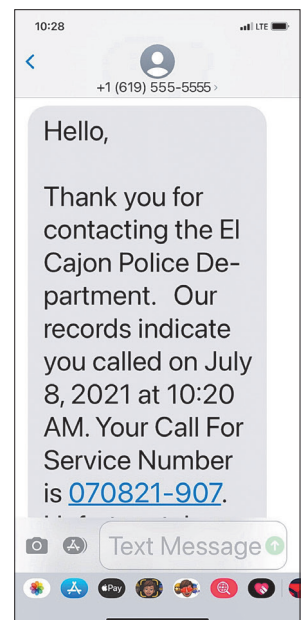
Computer Aided Dispatch

When someone calls to report an incident, computer aided dispatch software collects essential information and automatically sends a text message to reporting parties about the status of the police response, a non-emergency number to call, how and where to fill out a report online, and expectations for what will happen next.

Records Management System

Crime victims want to know that they have been heard and that action is being taken to serve them. Our Records Management System automatically gathers relevant data and sends the victim an email and/or text message with follow-up information, such as the report number, the next steps to take, and the victim's bill of rights. Messages can even be sent in several languages.

These technologies have greatly improved the experience between the public and the police department, and help to strengthen the foundation of our partnership with the community.



Join the El Cajon Citizens Police Academy!



- Patrol,
- Communications,
- Traffic,
- Specialized Weapons and Tactics (SWAT),
- The Drone Unit,
- Special Enforcement Unit,
- Investigations,
- Gangs,
- PERT, and
- The Crisis Negotiations Team (CNT).

Have you ever wondered what the day-to-day is like for a police officer? Are you curious about the level of training officers go through to keep the public safe? Would you like to experience hands-on simulations of what officers encounter? If so, then the El Cajon Citizens' Police Academy is for you!

Relaunched in June 2021, the Citizens Police Academy meets one evening a week for a month, plus one Saturday, to learn about all the different divisions of the El Cajon Police Department. These include:



Participants also get the opportunity to witness a K9 demo, have hands-on training in the forensics lab, participate in police ride-a-longs, and are placed in situational de-escalation scenarios.

If you are interested in learning more about the El Cajon Police Department and want to sign up for the upcoming academy in October, applications are available at www.elcagon.gov/Citizens_Police_Academy.

Second Fire Station Dog, Jax, Coming to Station 8



This Fall, the City and Fire Station 8 will welcome the newest member of the fire suppression team, Jax.

During the course of a shift, firefighters respond to a wide range of emergencies and often times, they return from a call without the opportunity to decompress before responding to the next call. In 2019, with the introduction of Yara, Heartland Fire & Rescue became the 6th fire department in the nation to create a station dog program to address the mental health and wellness of its firefighters. Yara has now been at Station 6 for nearly two years and has made a tremendous impact on the well-being of the firefighters.

When Jax arrives later this year, he will have undergone four months of specialty training at K-9 Caring Angels in Virginia for therapeutic dogs and will provide mental support and comfort as firefighters return from duty. The goals of the City's station dog program are to provide an immediate de-stressor for firefighters that is available 24 hours a day and that the service be 100% confidential. Keep an eye out for our new furry friend, Jax, coming to Station 8 soon!



September is National Preparedness Month

FEMA presents National Preparedness Month each September, encouraging individuals to develop a disaster preparation plan for themselves and their families. During fall, the weather becomes wetter and cooler in many parts of the country, but in El Cajon, this time of year is characterized by Santa Ana winds. Add these high winds to dry vegetation with elevated temperatures and you have a formula for potential disaster. Because Californians know just how devastating wildfires can be, we have an advantage, we can be prepared! Not just for wildfires, but for earthquakes, floods, or any other disasters that may occur.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS



MAKE A PLAN



BUILD A KIT



BE INFORMED

These four steps can help you and your family be prepared for emergencies:

- ✓ **Make a Plan** – Include everyone living in your home in the planning process and do not leave out the kids. Then, practice your plan.
- ✓ **Build a Kit** – Your kit should include enough supplies to last several days after a disaster, for everyone in your home. Make sure to include your pets!
- ✓ **Stay Informed** – There are many ways to stay informed during a disaster, including useful apps you can download to your smartphone.
- ✓ **Get Involved** – Many local and national organizations are involved in preparing communities to respond to and recover from disasters.

For detailed information of personal disaster preparedness and ways you can get involved in preparing your community, please visit these webpages:

www.heartlandfire.org/101/Emergency-Preparedness

www.readysandiego.org/

www.ready.gov/

Fire Prevention Week: October 3-9



The month of October brings Fire Prevention week. The 2021 National Fire Protection Association's Fire Prevention Week is October 3rd through 9th. This year's theme, "Learn the Sounds of Fire Safety" effectively reminds us, "Hear a chirp, make a change!" A chirping alarm means the battery, or the entire smoke alarm, must be replaced. Knowing what to do when an alarm sounds will keep you and your family safe. When an alarm makes noise, a beeping sound or a chirping sound, you must take action. With the changing seasons, remember to change your smoke and carbon monoxide detector batteries if they are replaceable.



Benefits of Locking Dumpster

The City of El Cajon encourages property owners and managers with dumpsters to lock them. There are several benefits to locking a dumpster. First, it prevents illegal dumpster scavenging by people looking for scrap metal, cans, bottles, and other items that can be recycled. It also helps deter illegal dumping by those looking for a free, quick, and easy way to throw away bulky trash. Locking and securing your trash is a simple way to keep your property and the community clean from trash and debris caused by illegal dumping.



**East County
Advanced Water
Purification**

CITY OF EL CAJON TO BENEFIT FROM EAST COUNTY WATER PROGRAM

Before water comes out of your tap, showerhead and sprinklers, most of it is imported from hundreds of miles to arrive in El Cajon. Drought events and increasing imported water and wastewater treatment costs have highlighted the need to identify new, local water sources to protect our economy, livelihood and well-being.

Innovative water recycling technology makes it possible for East County to create and control its own local and drought proof water supply. This new water supply will come from the East County Advanced Water Purification Program. The Program will use state-of-the-art technology to purify East San Diego County's recycled water. The Program will provide a safe, high-quality drinking water source at a competitive price for water and wastewater customers.



Benefits Are Immense – Financial Feasibility is Crucial

El Cajon joined a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) with Padre Dam Municipal Water District and the County of San Diego. Helix Water District is also a partner on this important water supply program. Together, the partners combine wastewater supplies and water treatment/distribution resources to achieve the ultimate goal to provide local water reliability and wastewater treatment at a cost that is competitive with alternative imported water and wastewater treatment rates.

The Program is scheduled to begin distributing water in 2025 and will produce up to 30 percent of East County's current drinking water demands. This added water independence will secure a long-term solution for increased stability in El Cajon and safeguard the vitality of our community's economy and quality of life.



**CREATES
a NEW,**
local and reliable
**DRINKING
WATER
supply**

**PRODUCES
up to 30%**
of East San Diego County's
**water
supply**

**PROVIDES
a safe, high-quality
DRINKING
WATER
source**

**REDUCES
our dependence
on imported
WATER**

**ECONOMIZES
long-term
COSTS**
by being
COMPETITIVE
with imported water
and wastewater treatment

**SUSTAINS
and safeguards our
ECONOMY**
and quality of life by providing a
DROUGHT-PROOF
and uninterrupted
**drinking water
supply**

**PROTECTS
sensitive ecosystems
& HELPS
the ENVIRONMENT**

Introducing a New Way to Tour – 360-Degree Video

Learn about the Program by virtually stepping into a 360-degree immersive video using your smartphone, computer or a virtual reality headset! Follow the water from Santee to Lake Jennings, looking up, down and all around to see how recycled water is purified into clean and safe drinking water. Visit www.EastCountyAWP.com or follow the Program on the social media handle [@EastCountyAWP](https://twitter.com/EastCountyAWP) to learn more, watch videos and receive updates.

Program Partners:





Keeping Trash Out of the Storm Drains

Each year, the City of El Cajon removes several thousand cubic yards of trash, sediment, and debris from our streets and storm drains in an effort to keep our streets and stormwater systems clean. The City conducts bi-weekly clean-ups in various locations in our storm channel, quarterly cleanups and maintenance of our storm drain filter baskets (trash capture devices), bi-annual cleanups of all open channels and brow ditches, and annual cleanups of our storm drain boxes. Additionally, the City has developed a comprehensive street sweeping program with commercial areas being swept one to two times a week and residential areas being swept monthly. During times when street sweeping is not feasible, such as in extreme inclement weather, the City conducts "Storm Water Patrols" to identify specific locations where focused cleanups can be accomplished.

Trash Accumulation in El Cajon Drainage Channels

Despite these efforts, trash and debris continue to collect in our drainage channels and storm drains in large amounts, polluting the water and creating an unsightly mess.

An analysis of the trash removed by the City reveals that approximately half of the trash removed consists of disposable beverage cups and food wrappers. Large debris from abandoned homeless encampments is also common among what is removed from our storm drains and channels.

How Can You Help?

There are many ways for residents, community groups, and businesses to get engaged in pollution prevention efforts. You can take the first step by using best practices at your home or business:

- ✓ Properly Dispose of Trash – Dispose of trash in the proper waste, recycle, and organics waste receptacles that are provided by EDCO.
- ✓ Vehicle Washing and Maintenance – Only wash or service your vehicle at a proper carwash facility or shop, instead of your garage to prevent chemicals from entering storm drains.
- ✓ Take Advantage of Community Dump Day by EDCO – Bring your large, unwanted items such as sofas, appliances, and mattresses to the Community Dump Day on Saturday, October 9, 2021, from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Wells Park. This service is free for City of El Cajon residents and utilizing this service will help eliminate these items from blocking our storm drains.



Be a part of the solution to storm water pollution by ensuring that all trash is disposed of properly. Remember, anything you toss out into the street or pour down the storm drain will eventually make its way out to the ocean. "Only Rain in the Drain!"

For more information, contact the El Cajon Storm Water Protection Program at (619) 441-1653, or online at www.ElCajon.gov/Stormwater. Project Clean Water is another great resource for information and events in our community to help keep our waterways clean. You can visit Project Clean Water at www.ProjectCleanWater.org and consider taking the "52 Ways to Love Your Water" pledge.

2021 El Cajon Community Dump Day

This service is free and for City of El Cajon residents only.

When: Saturday, Oct. 9, 2021

Time: 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Location: Wells Park, 1153 E. Madison Avenue

Examples of what you may bring:

- Furniture (e.g., sofas, chairs and dressers). Appliances (e.g., washers, dryers and refrigerators)
- Mattresses (please wrap prior to arriving at the event - special mattress disposal bags can be purchased at hardware stores, e.g., Home Depot, Lowe's, etc.)
- Greens (must be bagged or tied into bundles not to exceed 4' in length or 18" in diameter)

Questions? Please email us at csrlg@edcodisposal.com, send a **text message to (619) 202-8365**, visit our website at edcodisposal.com and fill out our **Contact Us form**, or call **(619) 287-7555**.

EDCO
edcodisposal.com

"We'll Take Care of It"



Fats, Oils, and Grease

While fats, oil, and grease (FOG) add extra flavor to our food, pouring these substances down the drain can wreak havoc on the El Cajon sewer system. When FOG is improperly disposed of down the drain, it can create blockages as hard as concrete and can completely block pipelines and sewer laterals (small sewer pipes attached to private property that connect to the main sewer line), resulting in spills of raw sewage onto your property, the street, and local storm drains. These backups in the home or kitchen can also result in costly plumbing repairs.



The following practices can be used to help reduce the amount of FOG entering the sewer collection system:

- ✓ Collect cooking waste by pouring liquid FOG into a storage container before washing dishes and throw the container away when it is full.
- ✓ Wipe FOG off of pots, pans, dishware, equipment, utensils, and serving pieces prior to washing. This can be done with scrapers or absorbents, keeping most food pieces and oil grease from entering the sewer drain system
- ✓ Install drain screens to catch food particles instead of washing them down the drain.
- ✓ If you spill oil on the ground, use dry sweeping or absorbents, such as cat litter, to contain and collect spills before mopping the surface.

Restaurant owners should ensure employees:

- ✓ Collect FOG from deep fryers, pans, and stoves and place it into grease recycling bins. Do not pour into sinks, drains, parking lots, or landscaped areas.
- ✓ Schedule routine cleaning of grease interceptors and grease traps by a certified grease hauler.
- ✓ Post procedures over sinks to remind employees of proper FOG disposal techniques.
- ✓ Replace grease devices often so that solids layers do not accumulate.

Separating Out Your Organics Can Help Too!

In 2016, the California legislature adopted SB 1383, which targets a 50 percent reduction in the landfilling of organic waste by 2022. Organic waste means food waste, green waste, landscape and pruning waste, non-hazardous wood waste, and food-soiled paper that is mixed in with food waste. EDCO, the City's new wastehauler, offers free kitchen caddies to City residents to help collect and transport the organic waste from your kitchen to your organics waste cart outside. If you would like to request your free kitchen caddy, please visit www.edcodisposal.com.

Whether in a home or in a business, we all have a role in protecting what goes down the drain and implementing best practices can prevent backups in the home or kitchen, resulting in costly plumbing repairs. For more information, contact the Storm Water Protection Program at (619) 441-1653, or visit www.elcagon.gov/stormwater.



14 COMMUNITY EVENTS



Foodie Fest

Come out and enjoy El Cajon's first-ever Foodie Fest on Saturday, October 9, from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. in Downtown El Cajon at the Prescott Promenade. This event is designed to reignite the restaurant and food service industries, while celebrating the community's diversity, supporting a local non-profit, and increasing foot traffic in Downtown El Cajon. The East County Chamber of Commerce will feature up to 40 restaurants, catering services, and food trucks for all ticket holders. The Downtown El Cajon Business Partners will feature entertainment and St. Madeline Sophie Center will feature arts and crafts for all ages. Pre-event tickets are \$4 for youth ages 2-12 years and \$8 for ages 13 and older. On the day of the event, tickets will be \$5 for youth and \$10 for ages 13 and older, while supplies last. Only 5,000 tickets will be sold—so get your tickets now! Visit www.elcajon.gov/FoodieFest to learn more.

Seasonal Traditions Returning to Downtown El Cajon

Hauntfest will be held on Friday, October 29, from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. There will be costume contests with cash prizes, free entertainment, and much more. Visit www.hauntfest.org to learn more.



The 75th annual Mother Goose Parade will be coming down Main Street on Sunday, November 21, at 1 p.m. Former San Diego Padre and current sports broadcaster Mark Grant will serve as the Grand Marshall at this year's parade, which will have more balloons and

more floats than ever before! Visit www.mothergooseparade.org for more information.

To recognize Small Business Saturday, Holiday Lights on Main will be held on Saturday, November 27th from 12 p.m. to 8 p.m. The event will primarily be hosted at the Prescott Promenade, with a tree lighting by Santa and the Mayor at 6 p.m. at the intersection of Main and Magnolia. Learn more at www.downtownelcajon.com.



Events at The Magnolia are back! Here is the initial lineup for this fall:

September 18	An Evening with The Monkeys
September 22	Josh Turner
September 30	Mon Laferte – US Tour 2021
October 2	Matute
October 23	Sofia Niño de Rivera – Lo Volvería a Hacer
October 28	Sara Evans
November 6	Nick Kroll: Middle-Aged Boy Tour
November 11	Elvis Costello & the Imposters



MAGNOLIA
PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

November 12	Uncaged: The Untold Stories from the Cast of Tiger King
November 13	Rick Wakeman – The Even Grumpier Old Rock Star Tour
November 17	Cirque Musica Holiday
November 18	Gilberto Santa Rosa
December 3	Lindsey Buckingham
December 6	Mary Chapin Carpenter, Marc Cohn, Shawn Colvin: Together in Concert

Visit www.magnoliasandiego.com for the latest performance schedule.



City of El Cajon
200 Civic Center Way
El Cajon, CA 92020

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POSTAL CUSTOMER

Saturday,
October 9
4-8 pm

**Prescott Promenade and
Centennial Plaza** (201 E. Main Street)

Ticket sales begin **September 1, 2021**
www.elcajon.gov/foodiefest

TICKETS:



*An epic
experience for
the foodies
in your family!*



IN COLLABORATION WITH:



Join Us

Celebrate the re-opening of El Cajon's flavorful
"foodie" community – with food for every craving,
arts, crafts, and entertainment for the entire family!

